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# Who won, lost in Ford purge?

STAT

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President Ford purged the top ranks of his administration last weekend, spotlighting serious foreign and economic policy disputes and an intensifying scramble for power within the U.S. ruling class.

At the center of the shadowy infighting were the back-to-back announcements Nov. 3 of Vice President Nelson Rockefeller's decision not to be Ford's running mate in 1976 and of Defense Secretary James Schlesinger's ouster from the Pentagon.

Ford tried to play down the significance of the events, claiming during his Nov. 3 press conference that there were "no basic differences" involved in the shakeup. "Ridiculous" was the term he used to describe the charge that the changes had been made to undercut the growing presidential campaign of former California Gov. Ronald Reagan.

Everyone had done a "superb" job, Ford said, adding that he just wanted to be able to work with "my own guys."

"Any President has to have the opportunity to put together his own team," Ford explained. "The decisions I have made give to me the people and the team and the organizational structure to continue to carry out an affirmative, successful foreign policy on a global basis; and to keep our national security forces second to none."

Nonetheless even this professed concern for the lack of "teamwork" in this area indicates a sharp dispute in foreign policy.

The core issues at stake, most accounts agreed, were the "detente" schemes of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, which involve both collusion and contention with the Soviet Union in the struggle for superpower domination of the world.

This has been the common line of both the Nixon and Ford administrations, backed by the Rockefeller financial group. It has come under increasing attack by both Republican rightists and "Cold War" Democrats, such as Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) and AFL-CIO chief George Meany.

## A KISSINGER VICTORY

Kissinger appears to have emerged a victor in the present battle. Some significant losses have been suffered, however, by the Rockefeller forces he represents. Following is a summary of the scope of the purge and the shifts involving its principal figures:

- Schlesinger's ouster from the Defense Department. This is Kissinger's main victory. The former Pentagon chief will be replaced by Donald Rumsfeld, presently Ford's White House chief of staff. Schlesinger is a cohort of Sen. Jackson, a representative of the First National City financial group. Schlesinger has battled Kissinger for more than a year on "detente" issues. He recently clashed with Congress over what he termed "deep, savage cuts" in the defense budget and, according to one report, threatened to resign rather than "preside over the liquidation" of U.S. military might.

Actually, this amounts to demagoguery on Schlesinger's part, since both he and Kissinger favor U.S. arms expansion. The Pentagon chief wanted it at a faster and less restricted rate, however, while the secretary of state wanted to use the arm's budget's rate of increase as a bargaining chip to wheedle Soviet concessions in other arenas. The dispute led Schlesinger in recent weeks, in effect, to block and sabotage the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks.

The appointment of Rumsfeld, however, may cause Kissinger some eventual difficulties. Rumsfeld is a former Nixon aide and "moderate conservative" congressman from Illinois. He has little experience in military affairs, save for a brief stint as a NATO official in Europe. But he is an aggressive GOP centrist, who has locked horns with both Rockefeller and Reagan forces in order to promote his own vice presidential ambitions.

- Colby's ouster from the CIA. This represents the last step in a long battle initiated by Kissinger to purge the agency of his opponents, starting with counterintelligence chief James Angleton who left last year. Angleton believed the Sino-Soviet split was a myth designed to dupe the West, hardly a view compatible with "detente" policies. While Colby eventually split from this anti-Kissinger opposition, reported a recent issue of Fortune magazine, he "came in from the cold" too late to avoid being tarnished by the scandals around the agency's "covert action" schemes.

## 'LOYAL SOLDIER'

Colby's replacement is George Bush, presently U.S. representative to the People's Republic of China. He is described as both "independent" and a "loyal Republican soldier." He has a foot in both camps of the GOP, since his father was an "Eastern elitist" senator from Connecticut while he is an independently wealthy oil millionaire from Texas. Bush, who is on friendly terms with Kissinger, is expected to stay at the CIA only for a short while—mainly due to his vice presidential ambitions.

- Rogers Morton's resignation as commerce secretary. Morton has been in poor health and will be replaced by Eliot Richardson, presently U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain. Both men are Rockefeller allies and the main significance of the shift is that Ford kept the cabinet position in Rockefeller's camp when he had the option to do otherwise. It also promotes Richardson's vice presidential ambitions and assists Kissinger by keeping the Department of Commerce's role in working out trade agreements with the USSR in the hands of a firm supporter and skilled diplomat.